

**GENERAL ACCOUNT AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**  
Monday, May 5, 2003

At its meeting of Monday, May 5, 2003, at 10:42 a.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Barger, and unanimously carried, the Board recessed into Closed Session, in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail. Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Deputy County Manager Steven D. Wyatt, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel, and County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar was invited to attend the closed session.

**Incentives for Poppelmann**

Mr. Millar said Poppelmann is a German plastic making company that has been in business for over 100 years. They make BMW and Mercedes parts and employ 1,100 people and have never had any layoffs.

The Poppelmann Company is interested in relocating its TEKU Division which produces horticultural growing containers, propagation trays and carrying trays for greenhouse growers and nurseries and decorative planters for retail stores.

Mr. Millar said he toured the company in Lohne, German and the company keeps their divisions separate with separate functions in different buildings.

They are in need of 30 - 33 acres and are down to two sites: Claremont, NC and Gainesville, GA.

This will be their first U.S. site.

Power and power supply is more readily available in Georgia; the County is working with Duke Power to offset this advantage.

No existing building in Catawba County meets the company's needs.

They would pay wages above the County manufacturing wage average. Their estimates propose 75 or more jobs in 5 years.

It would cost the company about \$2.1 million to obtain the Claremont site, run water and sewer lines and rail. The Georgia site already has the road and the rail.

This is a \$15 million per phase project and they are proposing up to four phases.

The City of Claremont was asked to upfront an economic development incentive grant of \$210,000 and the County is being asked to upfront an economic development incentive grant of \$150,000 with a contractual guarantee for payback to the County in the event they do not meet the parameters established, plus \$50,000 each from Claremont and Catawba County in CDBG funds for water/sewer and a road.

The Board felt as though this would be an excellent opportunity as the County is in need of jobs.

At 11:15 a.m., the Board returned to regular session.

---

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair

---

Thelda B. Rhoney, County Clerk